



Commander's Statement

Lt. Col. Manfred L. Little

3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)

A tragic training accident claimed the lives of four great warriors from 3rd Battalion on Monday, June 1, 2006. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of these fallen heroes during this difficult time. We are all deeply saddened by their loss.

The job of a Night Stalker is inherently dangerous. Soldiers volunteer for assignment with the Night Stalkers knowing that their profession will demand they perform at the highest level, executing missions others will not or cannot, and regularly place themselves in harm's way. Our handpicked personnel are provided the very best equipment and resources for extensive training to maintain the highest level of combat readiness.

We take all safety precautions necessary to protect our crew, whether in training or combat. Unfortunately, in the aviation profession, there is no level of planning, training, type of equipment or amount of resources that can *completely* prevent such tragic accidents from occurring. We are investigating the cause of this accident and will learn from the results to help protect our Night Stalkers in the future.

The key to this unit's success is our people – the aviators, enlisted crewmembers and maintenance and support personnel. These brave Soldiers selflessly make sacrifices in their personal lives every day to support the unit's mission and protect this nation.

We will never forget the ultimate sacrifice and numerous contributions of Chief Warrant Officer Four Michael Wright, Sgt. Christopher Erberich, Sgt. Michael Hall and Sgt. Rhonald Meeks. Their memories, and the memories of all our fallen Night Stalkers, will always be with us.

Night Stalkers Don't Quit!

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